

To: Jessica Marie Gallant,

An educator, a Mia Wallace, a Doraemon enthusiast, and a friend.

Jessica has many a good quality. Besides the sparkly blue eyes and creamy white skin that is the envy of all Thai women. She's also cool as shit (can I curse in this?) and quick as a whip.

Let me start with her teaching abilities. First off, she is a REAL teacher (with a Master's and all that). And not just at any school in the U.S., but the kind Coolio sang about in 'Gangster's Paradise'. I've heard some really great/horrifying stories that make any other teaching situation seem like a walk in the park. It's like she was a teacher in 'The Wire' Season 4. The fact that she was able to make it through multiple school years there, shows the kind of chutzpah this lady has.

Jessica was kind enough to bring these teaching abilities to Thailand. She teaches a bajillion different classes at Noonoy School, and then goes and kicks ass at Super English every night. She puts a lot of time into lesson plans, reports and projects for the kids. It's obvious that she is not just qualified to teach, but actually cares about these kids. If teaching Thai babies was a subject in school, she's get an A+.

So, let's move on to what makes her a great friend. Jessica Gallant is the most generous lady I have met, probably ever. She is always selflessly giving me her awesome things. AND She is a master sharer- whether it's a bowl of Thai curry, some oversized toiletries, or gifts sent from America. She even has her (equally awesome) family members track down things for the rest of us Super teachers, then send them out

here to Surat! For example: I couldn't find a moleskin planner anywhere, and when her dad came to visit, he brought me one. A sweet man, with a sweet daughter.

Another great Jess quality, is that of her accent. It doesn't always come out, and she tries to hide it (why, I don't know!). But when you do hear it- IT IS GREAT. I remember the exact moment I realized she was from Massachusetts. It was her first day, and Peter took us out to lunch. She was talking about basketball, and asked if anyone wanted to play *haaaas* (horse). A few sentences later, she was throwing around curse words. I knew it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. So...

Let's take a trip down memory lane with some Jessica moments...

Spending hours upon hours in various airports.

We would just be standing in line, and shootin' the shit. She's good to talk to. She's interesting and funny, and has entertained me with many anecdotes. My favorites being tales of teaching in Philly.

Being lame together at parties.

I spent the previous year in the Czech Republic destroying my liver, and I wanted Thailand to be a place of detox. When you are the ONE person not drinking, everyone hates you. When you are one of two people not drinking, everyone hates you, but at least

you're not alone. Jessica was always my sober buddy. When I wanted to leave parties at 11pm, she would always be my accomplice.

Weekend activities get severely diminished when you aren't drinking.

And in Surat Thani, my options got limited to painting Doremeons, or going to coffee shops. Jess was a good sport, and would accompany me. Making these seemingly dull activities all the more enjoyable.

Trying to ride twosies on a bicycle.

Jess purchased a pimped-out Hello Kitty bike, complete with a back seat for a second passenger. Or as we found out, a second tiny Thai second passenger. Two whities riding tandem on a Hello Kitty bicycle. I bet we made some Thai on-looker's day.

The great Jessica moments are numerous. We all loved Jessica as: Mia Wallace at the 90's party, a dirty hipster at the mustache party, drunk and droppin' R's at *baaas*, a hoarder of Doraemon stickers from 7-11.

When you move by yourself to a foreign country, you should be so lucky to know someone like Jess. She always let me dress her up for our many costume parties, she was always a sober buddy when I was being lame AND she even put up with me throughout our many bus/plane/tuk-tuk rides to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Siem Reap,

Phnom Phen, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. This lady deserves a medal. And it's not just me who she's been great to. Everyone at Noonoy loves her, all her students everywhere love her. She helps out everybody at SE. She is a fun and funny friend for us all.

This has been a tribute.

From: your Thailand-adventure 2011 friend, Anneliese.